

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 14022 211518Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1805

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 14022

FOR KUX FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SK, IN
SUBJECT: SIKKIM

REF: STATE 249339

WE CAN ASK MEA ABOUT CHOGYAL BUT WE STRONGLY DOUBT WE WILL GET ANYTHING MORE THAN WE SENT IN OUR 13736. CHOGYAL'S HEALTH IS APPARENTLY GOOD AND HE IS ABLE TO TRAVEL INSIDE THE COUNTRY. WITHIN SIKKIM THE GOI CONSIDERS HE HAS NO STATUS WHATSOEVER OTHER THAN AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. HE CONTINUES TO LIVE IN THE PALACE ALTHOUGH WITH A SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED ENTOURAGE. FRANKLY, WE HAVE NO PEG ON WHICH TO HANG FURTHER INQUIRIES ABOUT THE CHOGYAL OTHER THAN HIS BEING MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND WE ARE NOT GETTING ANY QUERIES FROM HER. INDEED, THE INDIANS KNOW OF PELL'S INTEREST IN THE CHOGYAL AND SIKKIM BUT THEY ALSO KNOW IT IS A POLITICAL INTEREST. THE MEA'S POLITICAL OFFICER IN SIKKIM HAS CLOSED DOWN HIS OFFICE AND COMMUNICATIONS WITH MEA ON SIKKIM ARE REFERRED TO THE HOME MINISTRY FOR RESPONSE. ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT US TO PURSUE THE CHOGYAL'S "CURRENT SITUATION" WITH THE HOME MINISTRY? AS WE NOTED REFTEL, EMBOFF (TOMSEN) AND CONSUL GENERAL KORN HOPE TO VISIT GANGTOK IN FEW WEEKS. AT THAT TIME THEY MAY BE ABLE DISCREETLY TO PICK UP SOME MORE TIDBITS ON CHOGYAL BUT WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO APPROACH GOI HERE IN DELHI ON THE SUBJECT AT THIS POINT.

SAXBE

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